

OKINAWA MARINE

JULY 10, 2009

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HMM-265 celebrates 45 years with 'Phrogs'

Lance Cpl. Abigail M. Wharton
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, celebrated 45 years of service with the CH-46, nicknamed 'Phrog,' June 26, with a large "fly the barn" formation flight and subsequent family cookout in the hangar. HMM-265 was the first Marine Corps operational helicopter squadron to accept and employ the 'Phrog,' whose primary use is transporting troops into combat; seconded by delivering supplies.

The unit, also called the 'Dragons,' has had several firsts with the 'Phrogs.' In addition to being the original CH-46 squadron, HMM-265 became the first Marine squadron to log 10,000 accident free hours in a CH-46A, Feb. 4, 1966. They were also the first to attach AV-8 Harriers, and other helicopters as a CH-46 composite squadron.

The members of HMM-265 are proud of their 'Phrogs' heritage.

"It's pretty exciting to be part of
SEE **PHROGS** PG 4



'Phrogs' of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Air Wing, celebrate 45 years of flying with CH-46.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Abigail M. Wharton

'Sumos' allow more air time



An F/A-18F from Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 9 hooks up to the drogue and hose trailing behind a KC-130J flown by Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, during an aerial refueling mission over the Gulf of Alaska June 22. The 'Sumos' of VMGR-152 supported Northern Edge 2009 with several aerial refueling missions every day of the exercise. Photo by Sgt. Zachary Dyer

'Sumos' support Northern Edge with aerial refueling

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Zachary Dyer
NORTHERN EDGE JOINT INFORMATION BUREAU

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — With approximately 200 aircraft taking to the Alaskan skies for Exercise Northern Edge 2009, thousands of pounds of fuel are needed to keep pilots and their jets in the air to get the vital training they need.

To help keep those jets in the air, the 'Sumos' or Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 brought two of their KC-130J Hercules aircraft to Alaska to support one of the Department of Defense's premier joint training exercises June 15-26.

"The KC-130 allows the F-18s

to have a longer on-station time, therefore they are able to have longer, what we call 'play time,' in the exercise," said Maj. James Nixon, the 'Sumos' detachment officer in charge for Northern Edge 2009.

Because the Northern Edge training areas in the Joint Pacific Alaskan Range Complex and the Gulf of Alaska are some distance away from here, the "Sumos" and their tankers allow aircraft to spend several hours training instead of the handful of minutes they would get on their own fuel, according to Nixon.

During a mission, the 'Sumos' can refuel two aircraft simultaneously with the drogue and hose that trail behind each wing. While the

pilots keep the giant tanker steady, the loadmasters in the cargo area closely watch the refueling aircraft to make sure nothing goes wrong.

"A loadmaster is the eyes in the back for the pilot," explained Cpl. Joshua Balbontin, a loadmaster with VMGR-152. "We let the pilot know where the plane we're refueling is at all times. We tell them where to move the aircraft in relation to our hoses.

The pilots and crew receiving fuel aren't the only ones benefiting from VMGR-152's presence in Alaska. The individual Marines of the squadron are gaining valuable experience while operating in a joint training environment.

SEE **SUMOS** PG 4

INSIDE

Solar Challenge 2009, Hospital Corpsmen obtain realistic training

Corpsmen sharpen both medical and warrior skill sets during challenge.

PG. 5



Scenic hike, inside view of Okinawa's beautiful falls

Hiji Falls delights visitors with picturesque climb to falls, wildlife, fauna.

PG. 6-7





Is smoking really worth the price?

Cpl. Heather Golden

My still-somewhat pending, and soon-to-be overcome, tobacco addiction can be broken down into a simple equation.

EDITORIAL Twenty cents per cigarette (which comes from an average of four dollars a pack) times an average of five times a day (which is the number of times I light up) times 365 days a year times approximately three years (which is how long I have been smoking, both openly and in secret) equals \$1,095.

Subtract about \$90 for the one month each year in which I attempt to quit, and that brings us to \$1,005 I paid someone to bring me closer to cancer, not to mention a slower run time.

Alright, so maybe it isn't such a simple equation. However, for \$1,005, I could do any number of things that do not risk my health.

Imagine taking a dream vacation every three years with money you didn't know you were wasting in the first place.

According to several online travel agencies, for about \$1,000, you and a guest can go on a one-week luxury cruise in a suite with a private balcony.

If being confined to a cruise ship is not to your liking, a weekend skiing in Colorado will run you about \$225 a night. That's two nights for a vacation for two, with some cash left over.

Or how does an all-inclusive romantic spa getaway weekend for approximately \$450 per person sound?

I found a deal advertising six nights in Ireland, to include hotel and car rental, for \$699 per person on one site.

More practical applications, for those oddities of human nature who don't relish vacations, include car, credit card payments and bills.

My average payment for the car I left wasting

\$1,005

Three Years of Smoking



away in storage in the states is \$320. That's three whole payments closer to owning my car. That's a quarter of a year sooner I could stop paying interest on the loan.

A decent laptop costs less than \$1,000.

As we grow older, more and more financial responsibility comes our way. It is important to get monetary issues under control early on.

I am not sure how quickly I will be able to kick the habit, but I know the earlier I start, the better off my bank account and my health will be.

Golden is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine.

TO SUBMIT AN OPINION OR EDITORIAL, E-MAIL US AT OKINAWAMARINE.MCBB.FCT@USMC.MIL

Please submit opinions or editorials containing between 400-700 words. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to choose appropriate material and edit as necessary.



FACT CHECK

MARKSMANSHIP BADGES

Q: Are marksmanship badges authorized for wear on the Service "C" uniform?

A: According to Marine Corps Order P1020.34G, Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5501, commanders may prescribe marksmanship badges for wear on all uniforms except the blue-white dress "A" and utility and camouflage work uniforms. Unless otherwise prescribed by the commander, wearing marksmanship badges is at the option of the individual.

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Young Marines from Camp Kinser pull against Camp Foster Young Marines in a tug of war match during a battalion field meet on Camp Kinser June 27. The battalion field meet was the first since 2001. Photos by Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz

A little bit shorter, just as motivated

"Let the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts march; let the Cub Scouts strut and beam. Oh, you haven't seen the greatest yet 'til you've seen the Young Marines."

— Young Marines Hymn

Dedicated Young Marines compete in battalion field meet

Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Young Marine units from Camp Foster and Camp Kinser competed in a battalion field meet at Roberts Field here, June 27.

The battalion field meet was the first hosted by the Young Marines on Okinawa since 2001.

The two units faced off against each other in several athletic events with the winner taking home a new trophy.

The meet was arranged so the Young Marines had the opportunity to meet and interact with other Young Marines on Okinawa, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Rich, the battalion commander of the Young Marines on Okinawa.

By the time lunch was ready, Kinser was ahead, 2-1, after winning both the Dizzy Izzy and tug of war, but losing to Foster in the mile relay.

After lunch, the Young Marines returned to the field of competition for several more events, including a push-up contest and an egg toss.

The meet was a great opportunity for the Young Marines to meet other Young Marines in sister units and see different leadership styles,



Lance Cpl. Daniel Dionne, right, and Lance Cpl. Christopher Kane, middle, both Young Marines instructors, receive a plate full of whipped cream from Young Marines Cpl. Jaella Campbell, left, a member of the Camp Foster Young Marines unit, during a battalion field meet June 27.

said Young Marines Cpl. Jaella Campbell, a member of Camp Foster's unit.

"Mostly though, everyone's just been having a lot of fun," said Campbell who has been a Young Marine for three years.

The day's events culminated with the Young Marines taking out their pent up aggressions on their Marine instructors by pushing plates covered in whipped cream into their faces. By the end of the exchange, Lance Cpl. Christopher Kane, a Young Marines instructor from Foster, and Lance Cpl. Daniel Dionne, a Young Marines instructor from Kinser, were covered in whipped cream down to their socks.

Kinser ultimately won the contest by one point.

Young Marines Cpl. Jasmyn Daniels, a member of Kinser's Young Marines unit, explained that the Kinser unit had been training hard for the field meet and that the type of athletic events were not unfamiliar for her or her fellow Young Marines.

"We usually do this all the time," Daniels said.

Daniels acknowledged this isn't the way most of her peers spend their weekends, particularly on summer vacation, but listed it as one of the reasons that she is a member of the Young Marines.

The reason, she said, is discipline and dedication.

Gary Sinise tours Okinawa with Lieutenant Dan Band



Actor Gary Sinise, right, poses for a photo with 10-day-old Konatsu Cole and her father, Cpl. Martin Cole, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Sinise toured the hospital to speak with patients and staff as part of his United Service Organization tour with his band. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz



Photo by Philip O'Neill

BRIEFS**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT**

The Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation Okinawa is hosting a Marriage Enrichment Retreat August 7-9 at Pricia Resort on Yoron Island.

Register now through July 21 by calling 645-3041, e-mailing CREDO.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil or drop by Bldg. 442 on Camp Foster. Please provide: names, phone numbers, command, and number of years married.

A drawing to determine the first 15 couples to attend will be held on July 22. Those couples will be notified by July 27.

Couples cannot have attended a CREDO Marriage Retreat within the past three years. Five of the 15 spaces are reserved for E-1 - E-5.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CLINIC

The MCCS Children, Youth and Teen Program is hosting a free Major League Baseball Clinic at Camp Foster Field 2, across from the SPOT on July 20-21 from 9 a.m. - noon for children ages 5-12 and from 1 - 4 p.m. for children ages 13 - 18. Transportation is not provided.

The clinic will be conducted by Coach Dave Palese from MLB International.

Participants must register by July 16 or call 637-3713 for more information.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon every Friday. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Marines produce clean water with TWPS

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bianco
31st MEU

USS ESSEX, Coral Sea — Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, performed Tactical Water Purification System operations aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), June 23.

According to Lance Cpl. Angel Vega Jr., a CLB-31 basic water support technician, TWPS replaced the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit as the Marine Corps' and Navy's main water purification system.

"The modules and filtration system allows the TWPS to operate in a wider range of areas and climates than the ROWPU did and is better suited for combat situations," said Vega, a 23-year-old Chicago native. "TWPS can turn seawater, freshwater and murky water into potable drinking water."

The TWPS process begins when non-potable water is pumped into portable wells. The wells can hold up to 3,000 gallons of water. The unit uses

micro-filtration and reverse osmosis technology during the purification process. In the end, potable water is pumped out one side of the machine and waste water out the other.

"All we have to do is calculate approximately how much water we need and then set the machine. It will continue to run until the amount of desired water is reached," said Cpl. Barsam Dokh, a 21-year-old CLB-31 basic water support technician.

The Houston native also said water purified through TWPS can be considered the cleanest water a person can drink.

"In most bottles of (spring or purified) water the amount of total dissolved solids is around 200 to 300 particles per million," Dokh said. "This unit can get TDS down to almost zero."

According to Maj. Ernesto Bullicruz, Executive Officer of CLB-31, the system's maximum capacity is dependent on several variables, including the material content and the amount of water available at the source.

"Water with high material content, such as seawater, can

yield between 540 to 720 gallons of potable water per hour," said Bullicruz, a native of Puerto Rico. He estimated that one TWPS could reasonably sustain a population of 400 individuals with an average of 15 liters of water per day, per person.

The MEU has used the purification system in most of its deployments since adding it to the unit's inventory in 2004.

"Although Marines and sailors in the field use this unit to provide themselves with a sufficient amount of potable water, we also use it during humanitarian assistance efforts," Vega said.

Sergeant Douglas Leonard, a platoon sergeant for CLB-31, said water is a basic human need and the TWPS helps Marines and sailors acquire that need in the various environments in which they operate.

The MEU is currently participating in Exercise Talisman Saber 2009. TS '09 is a bilateral command post and field training exercise designed to maintain a high level of interoperability between Australian and U.S. armed forces.

SUMOS FROM PG 1

"As a squadron, we're getting maintenance training and flight training for both the aircrew and the pilots," said Lance Cpl. Paul Millis, a loadmaster with the 'Sumos.' "It's also showing us how different services do things different. Navy pilots refuel differently than Marine pilots. It's not only giving us personal and professional experience, it's helping us adapt to working with the different services."

It is that same joint operability needed to successfully coordinate an aerial refueling mission that Northern Edge gives to the 'Sumos' and their fellow service members.

"As people from other services would say about the Marine Corps, we are unique, and we're proud of that," said Nixon. "But the ability to work well with those other services, and know what their capabilities are and what their quirks are, and for them to know what our's are - it definitely helps when we go to the real world environment having experienced it during an exercise."

It also gives the younger Marines of the squadron some perspective on how the services work together, according to Millis.

"Working with joint services is great," said Millis with a smile. "Obviously, we know Marines are the best, but it's been good working with other services and seeing how they do things. The people I'm working with, I see every day, they're a great bunch of guys. I couldn't ask for better crews or better pilots."



FROM THE PAST, CIRCA 1960's: Marines board helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 while at sea aboard the USS Boxer (LPH 4). Official U.S. Navy photo provided by HMM-265

PHROGS FROM PG 1

history," said Cpl. Mitchell Ju, helicopter airframe mechanic with HMM-265. "The birds are older than I am and they're still flying."

Historically, the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter was designed by Boeing/Vertol because the Marine Corps needed a medium-lift, twin-turbine, troop/cargo assault helicopter to replace the piston driven UH-34. The first ready-for-use aircraft arrived in 1964.

HMM-265 was commissioned Oct. 1, 1962 at the Marine Corps Air Facility, Jacksonville, N.C., flying the UH-34 type helicopters. HMM-265 received the first CH-46 helicopters on June 29, 1964. In April 1966, HMM-265 was transferred to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and sailed to the western Pacific to participate in the Vietnam War. HMM-265 was then re-activated to Hawaii on Sept. 1, 1977, to re-establish presence in the Pacific.

In February 1985, HMM-265 began participating in the Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa.

They continued with this until their permanent re-location here in early 1995.

"It was neat to see all the aircraft taxiing in front of me," said Capt. Joseph A. Alig a CH-46E pilot with HMM-265 and pilot of the 9th 'Phrog' in the formation. "There was very high morale here and all the Marines jumped through hoops with a smile on their face to get everything ready for today."

After a "Hollywood shutdown," the crews returned to the hanger, and were received by their families and friends with a feast of barbecue and potluck dishes.

Colonel Robert M. Brassaw, commanding officer of MAG-36, 1st MAW, and Lt. Col. Christopher D. Taylor, commanding officer of HMM-265, concluded the event with a morale boosting speech about the day and the unit.

"I'm very proud to be part of the Dragon legacy, we're real trend setters in the helo community," said Sgt. Maj. Lanette Wright, sergeant major of HMM-265. "I'm very proud of this unit and I'm very proud of my Marines and sailors."

Solar Challenge '09 gives medics life-like training

Pfc. J Nava

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Navy hospital corpsmen are a different breed than the standard sailor. They are able to cross a fine line between saving lives and taking them, using both scalpel and rifle with the same precision to fight and support battles.

The hospital corpsmen and Marines of 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, participated in Solar Challenge 2009 from June 22-26 to hone their skills as doctors and warriors.

“The sailors of 3rd Medical Battalion can get the call to deploy at a moments notice,” said Master Chief Petty Officer Donald F. Bradberry, command master chief of 3rd Med. Bn. “This sort of training gives them the confidence and abilities to work while deployed.”

During the week-long event, sailors participated in various scenarios including non-combatant evacuation operations, mass casualty evacuations, trauma training, command and control operations, and resupply missions.

The Marines and hospital corpsmen participating in the training were separated into three factions; Company B, Company C and a mock insurgent group called Red Cell.

Companies B and C came under attack from Red Cell. The Marines and sailors then had to secure a defensive position, giving them a taste of what operating in hostile territory would be like.

“This training helps us stay prepared and alert,” said Seaman Apprentice Sean Farnsworth, 3rd Med. Bn., and also a member of Red Cell. “Participating as the enemy helps us think as the enemy. Now we know how they would possibly operate.”

Amidst the chaos of the mock casualties, the hospital corpsmen could be found helping those in need, to include both insurgents and service members.

“III MEF corpsmen can be here today and in three months find themselves in Afghanistan,” said Brig. Gen. William M. Faulkner, commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. “This training gives them (corpsmen) the ability to operate in an environment outside of the hospital or operating room, so that they’re ready for any deployment.”

The mock casualties were then transported to the medical tents, where the focus of the training would change from combat oriented to medical oriented.

“Being able to work efficiently in combat is very important for us,” Farnsworth said. “Lives depend on our abilities and skills.”

Solar Challenge '09 concluded on June 26 leaving some sailors returning from the field with a new insight on combat operations.

“The battalion has received many new corpsmen over the past few months,” said Bradberry. “It is good for the younger corpsmen to learn from the ones with combat experience. It helps increase the impact this sort of training has on them.”



The mock insurgent group, dubbed Red Cell, attacked Companies B and C at their respective command posts throughout Solar Challenge 2009. The hospital corpsmen would repel the attack and then perform whatever medical treatment was needed for the mock casualties. Photos by Pfc. J Nava

“As the first echelon of care between the infantry Marines and hospital ships, training like Solar Challenge is vital in giving corpsmen the ability to become better battle-

field doctors,” Farnsworth said. “It’s important for us to learn these sorts of things and operate more efficiently so that we can save lives on the battlefield.”



Sailors with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, prepare to offload mock casualties for treatment in the Central Training Area, during Solar Challenge 2009, June 25.

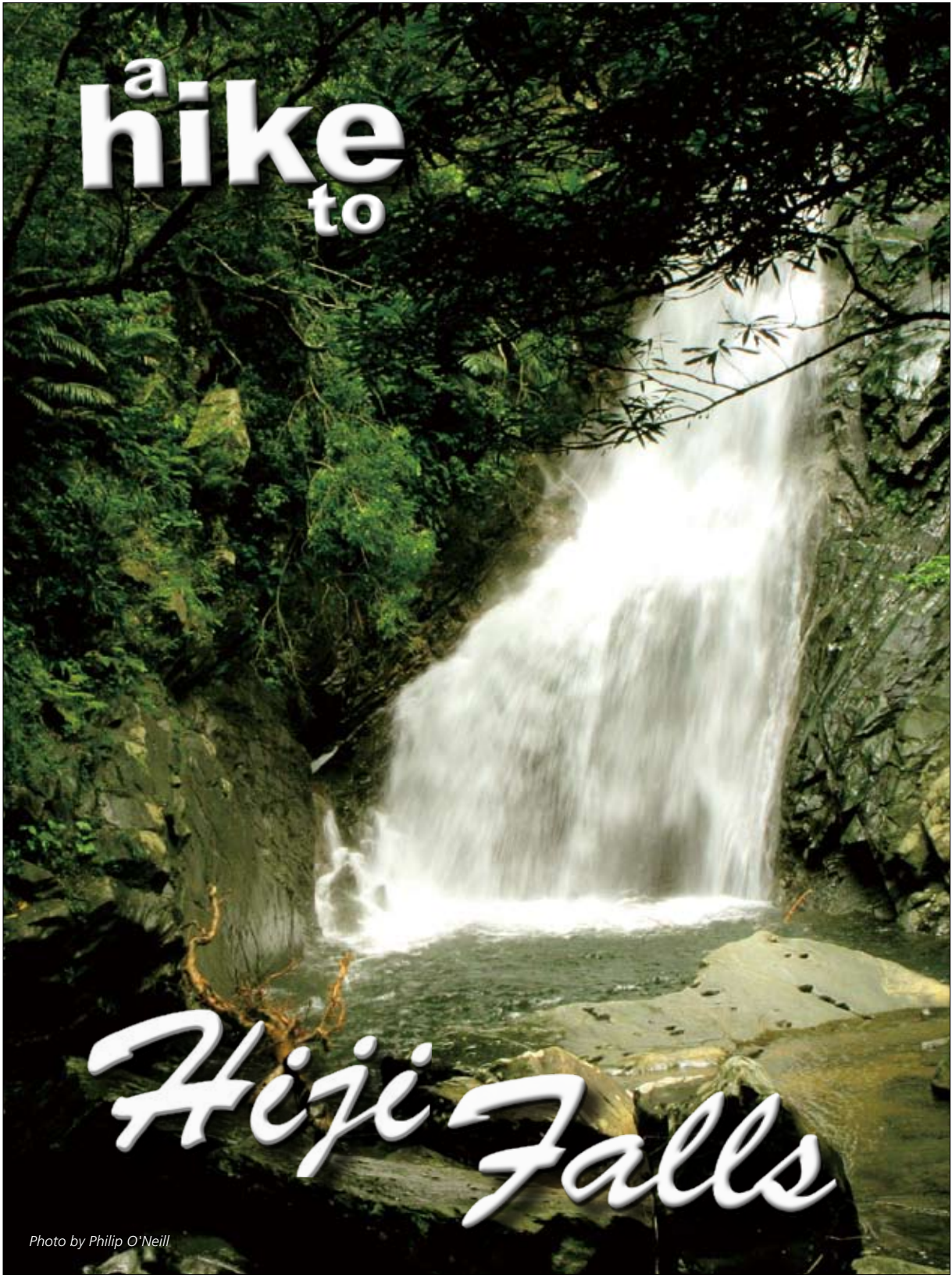


Photo by Philip O'Neill



Photo by Cpl. Bobby J. Yarbrough



Photo by



A half-hour hike into the Yanbaru Forest lies an unspoiled paradise, a hidden oasis teeming with wildlife and its very own waterfall. Armed with a water source, good hiking shoes and a couple of snacks, explorers can take part in the beauty known as Hiji Falls.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost



Photo by Lance Cpl. Shelby Shields

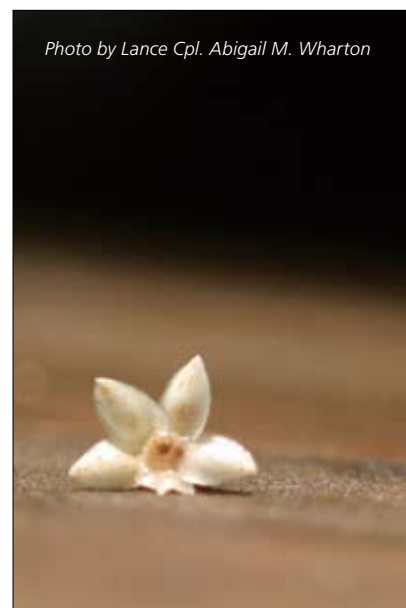


Photo by Lance Cpl. Abigail M. Wharton

Escape to a hidden oasis amidst the rainforest of Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Paul D. Zellner II
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

This natural masterpiece rests halfway down the Hiji River, which is inhabited by more than 380 species of plants, and a variety of exotic wildlife, according to park brochures.

The 1.5 kilometer trek up to the waterfall is laden with well-beaten dirt paths and steep wooden steps. Loose clothing is recommended in order to make the hike easier.

Although the tall canopy filters the Okinawan sun, it is wise to bring sunscreen to combat any harmful rays, some insect repellent to ward off any would-be pests and

plenty of water to stay hydrated.

As you begin your hike, the subtropical rainforest surroundings suddenly becomes more distinct. The birds begin to chirp and the dragonflies buzz abroad, turning the expedition into a living work of art. A camera is a must in order to capture and bring home a piece of artwork.

At one point along the trek, a long suspension bridge juts out above the rushing waters of the Hiji River providing for a breathtaking view of the lands around you.

Halfway up the trail, explorers have an opportunity to see the first small waterfall that acts as a precursor to the rainforest's largest waterfall.

At the end of the trail is the grand waterfall itself, allowing explorers an opportunity to bask in the sun and let the melody of flowing water put them at ease.

Those wishing to visit the park can take Highway 58 north through Nago. At the Okuma Turnoff, turn right at the sign reading Hiji Falls and follow the signs to the park.

The entrance fee is ¥300. Campsites and picnic areas are also available for a nominal fee.

Park hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last visitors being allowed on the trail at 3 p.m.

This calming oasis open to all is just one of Okinawa's many hidden treasures waiting to be found.

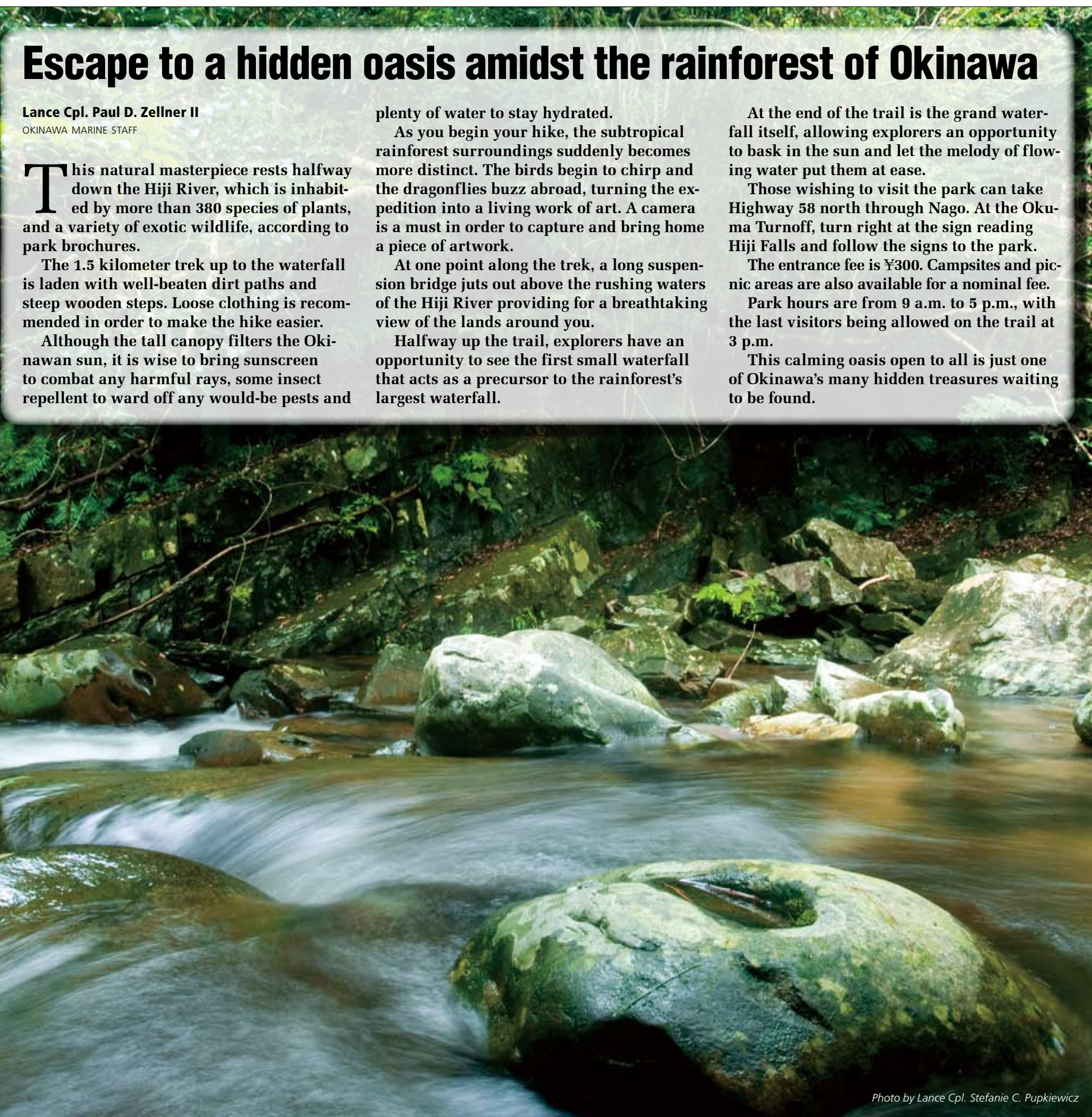


Photo by Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz



Okinawans and Status of Forces Agreement personnel dance salsa during a weekly salsa lesson at Thirsty's Enlisted Club aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Erik Rodriguez, and his wife, Yuki, host several latin dance lessons both on and off base including free basic lessons at Camp Foster and MCAS Futenma.



Erik Rodriguez and his dance partner Yoshie Uema, step together during a salsa social. Rodriguez hosts a variety of socials at which salsa enthusiasts have the opportunity to learn advanced dance patterns and meet others with interest in latin dancing.

Hispanic culture dances to hearts of service members, Okinawans

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cordero

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Marine Corps, as an organization, is a melting pot of people with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. With this diversity, service members and their families can often find activities throughout the island of Okinawa offering a meaningful cultural learning experience.

One popular activity that seems to grab the attention of Status of Forces Agreement personnel and Okinawans alike, is tapping into the spirit of salsa dancing.

The Mamboki Latin Dance school, located near Camp Foster, is owned by former U.S. Marine Erik Rodriguez and his wife, Yuki, whom he met while stationed in Okinawa through their passion for the dance of salsa.

To Rodriguez and some of his students, people develop an interest in salsa because it brings them together through social and physical interaction; it is an art of its own.

Rodriguez has been an instructor for both SOFA personnel and locals since he was stationed here from 2000-2003. His interest for salsa sprouted in high school when he noticed the female population was fond of a gentleman who knew his way around the dance floor.

"When I realized this I went up to my dad (who knew latin dancing) and asked him if he could teach me and he replied 'so now you want to learn,'" Rodriguez said as he laughed.

But in those days helping his family make a living took priority. When he realized supporting his family was becoming harder, Rodriguez decided it was time to make a change. It was time for him to serve his country. He went down to the U.S. Air Force recruiter and

asked what he needed to do to get started.

"My friends always told me 'the Marines are tough, so I went for a different challenge,'" Rodriguez said.

Unfortunately, he was unable to join the Air Force. A year later he decided to give it another shot and decided to take the challenge of becoming a Marine.

"The following weekend I was in recruit training," he said.

The uptown Manhattan native received orders to Okinawa, Japan, in 2000 as an aviation ordnance technician. He worked out of Kadena Air Base attached to a unit responsible for the handling of weapons. When he was stationed here, Marines served one year

started to teach on base a year afterward.

A year after he began teaching on base, the people he taught with were getting ready to leave so he inquired about taking over the lessons.

"I just wanted it to be something else Marines can do," Rodriguez said.

In his lessons, Rodriguez repeats each given step until the students can keep up with the motions. Currently, he provides free basic lessons at the Camp Foster Globe and Anchor on Fridays and aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's Thirsty's on Tuesdays. He and his wife also run a studio off base where students can delve deeper into the heart of salsa through basic, intermediate and advanced level salsa.

"I see a lot of young people who look at the lessons and think it is easy," he explained. "I even sometimes get Hispanic students who assume they can dance because it's 'in their blood' and when they come to one of the classes they realize it's harder than it seems."

To Rodriguez, salsa is part of his life. It is what he does and always encourages students to see the pure side of salsa in which it is an art.

His influence is evident in many of his students who have learned to appreciate salsa as much more than just a hobby.

"In the beginning it looked like something cool," said Michael Babiuch, a student of Rodriguez. "Now I'm looking to become an

instructor. Erik and Yuki do a great job. They take the extra attention to have everyone learn and understand everything correctly."

Some of Erik's students also claim he is one of the best instructors out there and recommend lessons to just about anyone.

"He teaches in a way that just about anyone can learn," Babiuch said. "He is definitely one of the best."



Erik Rodriguez dances with Fumiko Tomoyose at Thirsty's Enlisted Club aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma during one of his weekly free lessons. Rodriguez stresses to his male students they must guide the women when dancing salsa.

orders overseas but Rodriguez extended twice and worked to find ways to stay on Okinawa even after he left the service.

"I liked it out here and I didn't want to leave," he said as he compared the fast paced city life of New York City to the Okinawan lifestyle.

While stationed in Okinawa, he taught salsa with a Japanese instructor out in town and

“Been a Boot”

Chaplain comes to H&S Battalion

Lance Cpl. Abigail M. Wharton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

His constant smile, sparkling blue eyes and easy small talk seem to relax his visitors. He usually has a proverb or verse to share with his guests but, when he gets down to business, he shows his genuine concern for those who come to him for counsel.

He is the Headquarters and Services Battalion, Marine Corps Base Chaplain, Lt. j.g., Richard B. Bristol. Bristol has made quite the journey in his life from an enlisted atheist in the Marine Corps to now, a Navy chaplain.

Bristol was born in Soest, Netherlands, Feb. 12, 1973, during his father's four year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993, at the age of 20. At the time, Bristol felt that the Marine Corps was the hardest branch of service and he wanted to take the challenge. He said his parents were supportive of his decision.

“It's almost an unspoken rule in our family that the males pick a branch of service and pay back the country with at least four years of service,” Bristol said.

And so he did. Bristol headed to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as a staunch atheist.

“That didn't last long even for a

‘Hollywood Marine,’” said Bristol as he leaned back in his chair with a laugh. “While I was still in receiving, I knew that I needed more strength than I had.”

From that time forward, Bristol said he began to believe in God. He attended Protestant chapel services when his drill instructors told the recruits to go to church.

“That's how I started going to chapel in boot camp,” said Bristol.

While in boot camp, he began to grow spiritually under the chaplains of MCRD, San Diego.

However, when he completed recruit training he stopped being so religious. After serving in the Corps for a few years, Bristol said a

chaplain from 8th Communications Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C., gave him his first Bible.

“I carried the Bible in my pack as a good luck charm, but I didn't read it until after I got out of the Corps in 1997.

Bristol said that Bible was the one he got his calling from. “I devoured it,” he said. “It was the first time I understood (the gospel) like that. Church was where I wanted to be.”

He attended every service at New Hope Community Church, in California, and soon people began asking him to teach their Sunday school classes. It wasn't long before people began to recognize his gift for spiritual teaching.

Bristol served as an associate pastor in his church. He attended a church conference where the speaker asked, “are you willing to do whatever it takes to serve God's will?” This challenge was what began pulling Bristol toward serving military members and their families.

Bristol decided to take steps toward going into full-time service while he asked God where he was to serve. He attended classes at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, in California. After about a year at seminary he was almost sure God wanted him to be a missionary or a church planter.

However, “Every time I heard about Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen deploying to Iraq repeatedly, my heart broke,” he said.

This heartache made Bristol almost

sure that he needed to re-join the military to minister to service members and their families. Although he knew that God wanted him in the service, he was still worried that he was just feeling nostalgic toward the Marine Corps.

In 2007, Bristol finally acted on his calling and decided to give God two tests to confirm his call to the service. The first test was breaking the idea to his wife in the most negative light he could and still get her approval.



Lt. j.g. Richard B. Bristol, Headquarters and Services Battalion, Marine Corps Base Chaplain, Okinawa, Japan, is shown in both armed forces uniforms he has served in. Bristol served four years of active duty in the Marine Corps, before he retired in 1997 and became a Navy Chaplain. Photo illustration by Audra A. Satterlee

“Honey, I think I might be called to be a chaplain in the military,” Bristol said. “This means I will probably be gone from home between six and fifteen months to a combat zone where people will be shooting at me and I may be hurt or killed.”

“I believe you are called to the ministry,” was Katie Bristol's simple response.

Bristol started researching the requirements to be a military chaplain. He needed to complete a Masters of Divinity degree. Since Golden Gate only offered a masters degree, Bristol placed a call to California Baptist University and told the staff he wanted to earn his Bachelor of Arts. The staff told him they would pull his transcripts and set him up with a scholarship; if he could come in that night they would have him a seat.

The speed of acceptance into the classes left Bristol with no doubt that he was meant to be in the military and so he worked hard to complete his schooling.

Bristol knew he wanted to be back with the Marines so he talked to a Navy chaplain career advisor, or detailee, to find out what duty stations were available so he could discuss them with his wife. Katie called the detailee's wife to get her opinion and they talked for two hours. In the end she called Bristol

at work and said, “Call the detailee, we're going to Okinawa.”

This is Bristol's second time in Okinawa. The first time he was here as a field radio operator, with Headquarters Company, 4th Marines, Camp Schwab.

The time he spent as an enlisted service member helps him relate to deployed Marines going through life's challenges, and separation from family and friends.

“I was single, in a two person room, with little pay and no car,” Bristol said. He went snorkeling and got his scuba license to keep busy. He advises Marines to not be barracks rats. “Choose to focus on the good things here and you won't have time to mope about (missing) the good things back home,” Bristol said.

“I'm extremely passionate about (my job), it's the best job in the world,” Bristol said. “I'm working with men and women who believe in something bigger than themselves; they're the best of the generation.”

Bristol said he is inspired by the Marines, sailors and their families and the sacrifices they make for their country. He encourages anybody going through challenging times to come talk to him. “I'm here for you and I've been in your boots,” he said. “My door is always open and my phone is always on.”

“I'm extremely passionate about (my job), it's the best job in the world. I'm working with men and women who believe in something bigger than themselves; they're the best of the generation.”

- Lt. j.g. Richard B. Bristol



Cpl. James A. KilKelly, accident investigator, Provost Marshal's Office, Camp Foster, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, displays a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal he received for saving the life of a fellow Marine while on call Jan. 1.

all in a day's work

“After six-and-a-half years I’m ready for anything.”

- Cpl. James A. KilKelly

Marine’s second nature response, saves life, earns medal

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Abigail Wharton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal is awarded for acts that surpass an individual’s average abilities. Some have been awarded for leadership in the face of adversity and others for saving people’s lives. This was the case for Cpl. James A. KilKelly, accident investigator, Provost Marshal’s Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

KilKelly along with, Lance Cpl. Bethany Reed, military police patrolman, Camp Foster, were summoned to a call on Jan. 1, 2009, around 2 a.m. in the morning. When they arrived a man was lying on his side, unconscious.

“As soon as we got there we could tell the victim wasn’t breathing,” Reed said. “KilKelly jumped right in without having to think about it.”

He attempted the sternal rub, where the rescuer rubs his knuckles up and down the victim’s breastbone, yet there was no result. Reed and KilKelly rolled the victim over and Reed observed his vital signs while KilKelly started rescue breathing or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Rescue breathing is applied to an individual who has a pulse but is not breathing.

When a hospital corpsman arrived on scene he took over the breathing and the victim began showing signs of life. The victim would have most likely died if not for the rescue breathing that KilKelly provided.

KilKelly joined the Marines in August of 2002 because he felt it was the best option for his life. He said he was just doing his job.

“After six-and-a-half years I’m ready for anything,” KilKelly said. “It was my first response.”

KilKelly said he has taken the combat lifesaver course, CPR courses and served three tours in Iraq. According to KilKelly, this kind of response is second nature.

“It’s just part of our job, every Marine should be a first responder,” said Reed. “But, KilKelly recalled all his training in an instant and for that I think he’s a hero.”

“KilKelly hasn’t let getting an award go to his head,” commented Reed. “He’s a good Marine who does his job the best he can. If anything, this only made him stronger.”

“I didn’t expect the medal or a story to be written about me,” KilKelly said modestly. “I don’t consider myself a hero.”



IN THEATERS JULY 10 - JULY 16

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

FOSTER 645-3465

TODAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG13), 6 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle for Terra (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3 (R), 6 and 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.

MONDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; The Soloist (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; Angels and Demons (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY The Soloist (PG13), 3 p.m.; Ghost of Girlfriends Past (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 3 and 8:30 p.m.

KADENA 634-1869

TODAY Battle for Terra (PG), 6 p.m.; Angels and Demons (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG13), 1, 5 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.

MONDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 3 and 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 3 and 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; Angels and Demons (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; The Proposal (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA 636-3890

TODAY Closed

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY Closed

MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY 622-9616

TODAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Earth (G), 2 p.m.; Ghost of Girlfriends Past (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY The Proposal (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Ghost of Girlfriends Past (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN 623-4564

TODAY Angels and Demons (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Soloist (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY The Proposal (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Observe and Report (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY State of Play (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Fighting (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Angels and Demons (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER 637-2177

TODAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; The Soloist (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 3 p.m.; Angels and Demons (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY Star Trek (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY The Soloist (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Crank: High Voltage (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB 625-2333

TODAY The Proposal (PG13), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY Ghost of Girlfriends Past (PG13), 5 p.m.

SUNDAY Earth (G), 5 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

USO MOVIE NIGHTS

The USO hosts movie nights at the locations below.

For schedules and start times, call:

CAMP SCHWAB 625-3834

MCAS FUTENMA 636-2113

CAMP HANSEN 623-5011

KADENA AIR BASE 632-8781



For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program office at 645-3681.

All bus pick-up points will be at Semper Fit gyms or the Foster Fieldhouse.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

SATURDAY • OKINAWA WORLD

• Enjoy the Gyokusendo Caves and an olden-style Okinawan village. Bus departs Kinser at 11 a.m., Futenma at 11:20 a.m. and Foster 11:35 a.m. There is a \$10 bus fee to ride.

JULY 18 • RENAISSANCE BEACH

• Come out and enjoy the beach. Admission is ¥1,260. Coin lockers cost ¥200. Bus departs Kinser at 11 a.m., Futenma at 11:20 a.m. and Foster 11:35 a.m. There is a \$10 bus fee to ride.

DISCOVER SCUBA PROGRAM

• Learn the basics of scuba diving. Put on the gear, jump in the pool, and see if it's right for you. Discover Scuba will be scheduled on a case by case basis, 10 participants minimum. For more information, call the SMP office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• The Marine Thrift Shop on Camp Foster requests two volunteers from each camp on a weekly basis. Tuesday, Kinser and Futenma; Wednesday, Foster and Courtney; Thursday, Hansen and Schwab.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- Catholic: Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.; Sat., 5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.
- Christian Science: Sun., 11 a.m., Bldg. 442
- Eastern Orthodox: Sun., 9:30 a.m.
- Gospel: Sun., 11:30 a.m.
- Hindu: Sat., 3:30 p.m.
- Jewish: Fri., Traditional, 6 p.m.; Informal: 1st, 3rd Fri., 6:30 p.m.
- Muslim: Fri., Prayer, 12:45 p.m.
- Protestant: Sun., 8:30 a.m.
- Seventh Day Adventist: Sat., 10 a.m.

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- Catholic: Sun., 5:30 p.m.
- Protestant: Sun., 9 a.m.

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- Catholic: Sun., 8 and 11:15 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.
- Protestant: Sun., 9:30 a.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- Catholic: Sun., 11 a.m.
- Gospel: Sun., 8 a.m.
- Protestant: Sun., 9:30 a.m.

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- Catholic: Sun., noon
- Contemporary: Fri., 7 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.
- High school senior service: Sat. 6 p.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

- Catholic: Sun., 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun., 11:30 a.m., Reconciliation, Chapel 3; Sun., 12:30 p.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun., 5 p.m., Mass, Chapel 2; Daily Mass, Mon.-Fri., noon, Chapel 2
- Contemporary: Kadena High School; Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- Gospel: Chapel 3; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m., Bldg. 856
- Inspirational: Chapel 2; Sun., 8:30 a.m.
- Protestant: Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- Traditional: Chapel 2; Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- Wiccan/Pagan: Fri., 7 p.m., Bldg. 856; Sat., 6:30 p.m., Bldg. 856

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- Catholic: Sun., 10 a.m., E. Chapel
- Protestant: Sun., 11 a.m., W. Chapel

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- Catholic: Sun., 8 a.m., Lester Chapel
- Tues., Thurs., Liturgy of the Word 7:15 a.m.
- Non-Denominational: Sun., 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun., 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP MCTUREOUS | 622-9350

- Gospel: Sun., 12:30 p.m.
- Lutheran: Sun., 9:30 a.m.
- Protestant Lethurgical: Sun., 6:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AUTOMOBILES

'99 TOYOTA VITZ

JCI Feb. 2010, \$2,400 OBO, (090)6514-6258

'06 HARLEY SPORTSTER

JCI Oct. 2010, \$7,500 OBO, 636-3984

2000 TOYOTA WILL VI

JCI Nov. 2010, \$4,500 OBO, 090-7545-4542

'94 TOYOTA CURREN

JCI June 2011, \$1,400, OBO (080)3603-6381

'95 TOYOTA ESTIMA

JCI June 2010, \$3,000, OBO 646-5021

'98 TOYOTA RAUM (VAR)

JCI June 2011, \$2,000, OBO (080)3605-8891

MISCELLANEOUS

ESP ALEXI LAIHO ARROWHEAD GUITAR

\$2,500

090-9787-7953 or 637-3769

ENGL POWERBALL GUITAR AMP, 4X12 CAB

\$3,000

090-9787-7953 or 637-3769

Sell your vehicles and unwanted personal items with a FREE OkiMar Ad!

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine are a free service to active duty military and their dependents, DoD employees and retirees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads are run on a space-available basis. The deadline for ads is noon Fridays. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by fax to 645-3803, or send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil.



Bulldog's hitter, Philip Adams, sights in on a pitch during the male championship game of the 14th Annual Firecracker Softball Tournament, July 5 at the Camp Foster Softball Field. The Bulldogs were defeated by American Legion of Okinawa 22-5.



Bulldogs second baseman, Des Ray, takes a leap completing a wild catch during the 14th Annual Firecracker Softball Tournament, July 5. The Bulldogs took a loss against the American Legion of Okinawa 22-5.

Okinawa-based teams take on 2009 Foster Firecracker Softball Tournament

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cordero
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The competition was stiff and the afternoons long as 27 teams from different regions in the Pacific faced off against each other during the 2009 Foster Firecracker Softball Tournament, at the Camp Foster softball fields, July 2-5.

With elimination rounds knocking many teams out of the line-up, two Okinawa-based teams stood out among the rest. The American Legion of Okinawa (male) and Yard Busters (female) softball teams, veteran teams consisting of players from all services, crushed the competition throughout the entire tournament.

Male Championship:

The American Legion of Okinawa softball team, who went undefeated throughout the tournament, dominated the Korea-based Bulldogs softball team, 22-5 during the final game.

During the bottom of the sixth, Legion

outfielder Robert Gullett blasted a two-run homer to show the Bulldogs they had no chance against their veteran line-up.

"A lot of these guys have been playing together for years," said Legion coach John O'Brien.

During the top of the seventh, Bulldog Buck Buchanan doubled, putting a man on 3rd and giving his team a glimpse of hope. However, the Legion's strong defensive lineup quickly shut the Bulldogs out of a victory.

"The weekend tournaments helped us prepare (for the championship)," said American Legion outfielder and tournament male Most Valuable Player Christopher Stevens. "That, and putting the team chemistry together helped us win."

Female Championship:

The Yard Busters female softball team overpowered the Okinawa-based Pitch Slap, 10-3, securing them the 2009 Firecracker female champion title during their final game.

The Yard Busters started their rampage early in the second inning, driving in runs

and closing out Pitch Slap.

By the end of the fourth inning, the Yard Busters held a 10-3 lead over Pitch Slap and carried it to the end of the game.

"We can't ask for anything more than mothers, spouses and service members to come together and achieve something like this," said Yard Busters coach Lance Jones.

For the Yard Busters, who practiced twice a week, their success can be traced back to teamwork and practice.

"(The team) had good defense," said Yard Busters pitcher and tournament female MVP Baranda L. Kirkpatrick. "I could pitch anywhere and feel safe to know (our) defense would take care of me."



Yard Busters left fielder, Tara L. Ballard, prepares to crush the ball during the 14th Annual Firecracker Softball Tournament, July 5 at the Camp Foster Softball Field. The Yard Busters defeated Pitch Slap 10-3 to take the championship this year.